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ABSTRACT

Violence in schools directly affects educators and students by reducing school effectiveness, inhibiting student learning, and exposing students who may already be at risk for school failure to physical and emotional harm. The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research "Monitoring the Future Study" supports the conclusion that victimization rates at school for high school seniors changed little between 1976 and 1996, except for small increases in the number of students who reported being threatened. Data collected in 1996 on type and racial/ethnic distribution of victimization at school during the previous 12 months demonstrate that black and white high school seniors were about equally likely to report being victimized; black students were more likely than white students to report being injured with a weapon; high school seniors from metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas were about equally likely to report being victimized; and high school seniors were more likely to report being threatened or injured without a weapon than with a weapon. Data are presented in one table and two graphs. (MKW)

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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

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Student victimization at school

November 1998

ED 424 699

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EA 029502

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Violence in schools directly affects educators and students by reducing school effectiveness and inhibiting student learning. Additionally, unsafe school environments expose students who may already be at risk for school failure to physical and emotional harm. In recent years, educators and policymakers have voiced growing concern about possible increases in the incidence of school-related criminal behavior. Studying trends in victimization rates provides a picture of the safety of today's schools.

- Victimization rates at school for high school seniors changed little between 1976 and 1996, with the exception of small increases in the percentage of students who reported being threatened both with and without a weapon in the previous 12 months. The most common type of victimization at school reported by high school seniors in 1996 was having something stolen (38 percent).
- In 1996, black and white high school seniors were about equally likely to report being victimized at school in the previous 12 months, except blacks were more likely to have been injured with a weapon than whites. Ten percent of black high school seniors reported being injured with a weapon in the previous 12 months in 1996, compared to 4 percent of white seniors.
- In 1996, high school seniors from metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas were about equally likely to report being victimized at school in the previous 12 months.
- High school seniors were more likely to report being threatened without a weapon at school than with a weapon during the previous 12 months (22 versus 13 percent) in 1996. Similarly, high school seniors were more likely to report being injured at school without a weapon than with a weapon in 1996 (12 versus 5 percent).

Percentage of high school seniors who reported being victimized at school during the previous 12 months, by type of victimization: 1976–96

Year	Had something stolen	Property deliberately damaged	Injured with a weapon	Threatened with a weapon	Injured without a weapon	Threatened without a weapon
1976	*38.1	25.8	5.7	12.5	13.6	21.3
1977	39.7	24.9	4.8	12.2	11.1	20.7
1978	37.8	25.3	4.6	11.6	12.2	20.0
1979	33.6	24.2	4.8	11.9	12.2	20.2
1980	34.1	25.1	4.5	10.9	11.1	19.3
1981	39.8	30.6	6.6	14.8	14.6	23.7
1982	38.2	25.7	4.6	11.9	12.1	21.1
1983	39.0	25.5	4.9	13.0	14.0	24.3
1984	38.0	24.2	4.0	11.9	12.5	22.9
1985	39.1	26.9	5.9	13.5	14.2	24.6
1986	40.2	25.9	5.4	13.2	13.8	24.8
1987	42.0	26.6	4.9	12.4	15.5	24.8
1988	42.2	27.5	4.7	12.5	13.5	23.7
1989	40.1	26.6	5.6	13.6	14.0	24.0
1990	41.6	29.4	5.8	13.2	13.6	25.1
1991	41.7	28.3	6.5	16.3	15.3	25.8
1992	37.1	26.4	5.1	14.0	12.8	24.6
1993	41.4	25.8	4.7	15.6	11.4	23.1
1994	39.7	27.2	4.7	15.0	11.7	23.7
1995	40.3	27.3	4.9	13.3	11.6	23.5
1996	38.3	25.9	4.9	13.2	11.8	21.6

* Revised from previously published figure.

NOTE: Response rates for this survey do not meet NCES standards.

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future Study*.

U.S. Department of Education

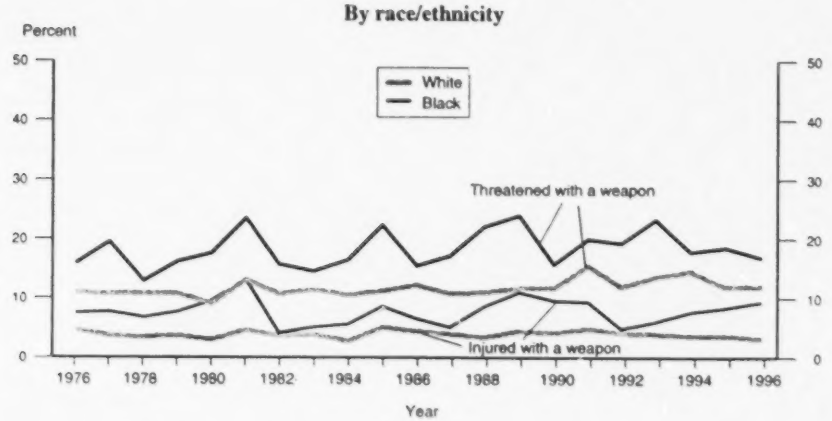
Office of Educational Research and Improvement

NCES 1999-002

Percentage of high school seniors who reported being victimized at school during the previous 12 months: 1976–96

By type of victimization

By race/ethnicity



NOTE: The 1976 figure for having had something stolen is revised from the previously published figure.

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future Study*.

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